

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SSM-03
OMB-01 IO-13 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 EUR-12 /086 W
-----302035Z 081607 /73

R 301111Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2893
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
DIA WASHDC
SECDEF WASHDC
USIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SY
SUBJECT: SYRIAN MEDIA SUMMARY FOR APRIL 29, 1977

1. MEDIA LED WITH STORIES HIGHLIGHTING ACTIVITIES
OF PRESIDENT ASAD. BAATH HEADLINED: "PRESIDENT
ASAD'S TALK (OWEN PRESS CONFERENCE) DRAWS INTEREST
OF ARAB AND INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL QUARTERS.
MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT ASAD TO PRESIDENT SADAT ON
DEVELOPMENTS OF SITUATION IN AREA AND RESULTS OF
MOSCOW AND WASHINGTON TALKS." THAWRA FEATURED
STORY ON PRESIDENT'S REVIEW OF BAATH "PIONEERS"

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(BAATH PARTY CHILDREN'S ORGANIZATION) RALLY.

2. LEBANON. PRESS REPORTED ISRAELIS SHELLED NABATIYYAH
CAUSING SOME CASUALTIES AMONG PALESTINIANS THERE.
LEBANESE MININT SALMAN QUOTED VOICING SATISFACTION AT
PROMINENT ROLE LEBANON PLAYED IN ASAD'S MOSCOW TALKS.
PRIMIN AL-HUSS EXPRESSED "UTMOST CONCERN" FOR RECON-

STRUCTION OF LEBANESE ARMY. NO EDITORIALS ON LEBANON APPEARED.

3. PRESS PUBLISHED EXCERPTS OF INTERVIEW SYRIAN DEP FORMIN RAFA'I GAVE KUWAIT AL-HADAF IN WHICH HE WARNED THAT ISRAELI MIGHT BE CONTEMPLATING AGGRESSION PARTICULARLY IN SOUTH LEBANON WITH AIM OF ESCALATING CRISIS THERE INTO NEW REGIONAL MILITARY CONFRONTATION. HE SAID SYRIA EXERTING INTENSIFIED EFFORTS AIMED AT REACHING AGREEMENT ON INTERPRETATION OF CAIRO AGREEMENT. HE CLAIMED IONSSENSUS EXISTED ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS AGREEMENT. (COMMENT: PRESUMABLY HE MEANT THAT ALL PARTIES CONCUR THAT AGREEMENT SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED BUT CANNOT AGREE ON WHAT THIS ACCORD ENTAILS.) RAFA'I ADDED THAT U.S. HAS NOT YET MADE ITS INTENTIONS "TOWARD OUR CAUSE" CLEAR. (REFERENCE APPARENTLY TO ARAB POSITION IN OVERALL ARAB-ISRAELI CONFRONTATION.)

3. MIDEAST PEACE (AND WAR). COLUMNIST AHMAD SHUKRI WROTE IN AL-BAATH THAT ARABS HAVE TO BE PREPARED FOR RENEWAL OF HOSTILITIES IN THE REGION INCLUDING USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS "IF ZIONIST ENEMY WISHES TO GO TO SUCH AN EXTENT AND IF (ISRAELI) ADVOCATES OF INTRANSIGENCE AND EXPANSION HAVE THE CHANCE TO REACH POSITIONS OF POWER." HE SAID FAILURE AT GENEVA SHOULD NOT CAUSE DESPAIR BUT SHOULD ACT AS CATALYST FOR STRENGTHENING ARAB SOLIDARITY INCLUDING IMPROVEMENT OF MILITARY MEANS TO THWART OCCUPATION OF ARAB TERRITORIES. JIBRAN KURRIYYA IN TISHRIIN REMINDED READERS THAT GENEVA LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONFERENCE IS NOT END IN ITSELF BUT IS FRAMEWORK TO REACH OVERALL SOLUTION OF CRISIS. HE SAID, "ARABS HAVE NEVER FELT MERE CONVENING OF CONFERENCE WOULD AUTOMATICALLY LEAD TO PEACE." HE ASSERTED THAT ARABS STILL CONSENT TO HOLDING GENEVA CONFERENCE WITH PARTICIPATION THE PLO; HOWEVER CAUTIONED THAT BY GOING TO GENEVA ARABS ARE NOT RELINQUISHING "THEIR RIGHT" TO LIBERATE OCCUPIED LAND BY OTHER MEANS (READ WAR).

4. COMMENT: SYRIAN SPOKESMAN CONTINUE TO CAUTION AGAINST EXAGGERATED EXPECTATIONS FOR CURRENT EFFORTS TO RECONVENE GENEVA MEPC. MEDIA REFERENCE TO POSSIBLE ISRAELI ATTACK UPON ARABS PARALLELS OFFICIAL SYRIAN ASSERTIONS THAT ARABS COULD USE FORCE TO REGAIN THEIR LANDS IF - AND THEY STRESS THE "IF" - DIPLOMATIC METHODS FAIL. MURPHY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS SUMMARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 30-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977DAMASC02750
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770152-0692
Format: TEL
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977042/aaaaabab.tel
Line Count: 114
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 99961c9f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2694456
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SYRIAN MEDIA SUMMARY FOR APRIL 29, 1977
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SY, XF
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/99961c9f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009